REMARKS

This application has been amended in a manner that is believed to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 20, 22, 23, 26-28, and 32-41 are pending in the present application. Claims 28, 37-39, and 41-42 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 28 and 36-39 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicants believe that the present amendment obviates this rejection.

In imposing the rejection, the Official Action alleged that it was unclear how the cell composition containing specific cell types recited in claims 28 and 36-39 could be simultaneously derived from and/or included in a peripheral blood mononuclear cell. Claims 28 and 37-39 have been amended to recite a composition which is derived from a peripheral blood mononuclear cell composition. Thus, Applicants believe that claims 28 and 37-39 are definite to one of ordinary skill in the art. As claim 36 is directed to a composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an active substance, Applicants also believe that claim 36 is definite.

Claims 40 and 41 were rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time that the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The outstanding Official Action alleged that the subject matter of claims 40 and 41 introduced new matter into the present application. The Official Action alleged that the specification as originally filed only supported a medium comprising cytokines or growth factors.

However, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to Examples 1 and 2 in the present specification. Examples 1 and 2, the specification describes a culture medium allowing the differentiation of mononuclear cells into macrophages. The specification states, "the culture medium contained 500 U/ml of GM-CSF. On day 6, IFN-gamma (250 U/ml) was added for one day" (page 9, line 4; page 11; line 10). Thus, the medium contains both cytokines and growth factors.

In addition, the specification provides that "the process of the invention can comprise an additional step of coculture blood mononuclear cells and progenitors, after washing off the platelets, the granulocytes and erythrocytes, for about 4-

10 days in a medium allowing differentiation of monocytes into macrophages and myeloid progenitors into polynuclear cells" (page 4, lines 21-25). Thus, generally speaking, the medium contains components used for the growth and differentiation of cells and may comprise cytokines and/or growth factors.

Nevertheless, in order to advance prosecution, claims 40 and 41 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. Claims 40 and 41 now recite that the medium contains at least one component selected from the group consisting of cytokines and growth factors. Thus, it is believed that claims 40 and 41 are clearly supported by the present specification.

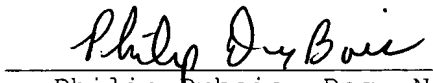
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, with claims 20, 22-23, 26-28 and 32-41, as presented. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis are accordingly respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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